

SUGAR and PLANTATIONS

ROLPH INTIMATES PRICE FOR SUGAR WILL BE INCREASED

Visits Most of the Louisiana Parishes and Remarks He Drops Give Satisfaction

TRIP IS OF DEEPEST INTEREST TO HAWAII

Will Find Acreage Smaller Than Last Year and Be Shown Need of Encouragement

Of about as much interest to Hawaii as to Louisiana is the recent visit of George M. Rolph, head of the sugar commission to Louisiana. The interests of Louisiana in sugar prices is almost identical with that of Hawaii and the Louisiana planters have been steadfastly working, and doing it conscientiously, for a higher price for raws. Thus next to a visit to this Territory, the visit to the other domestic sugar district is of the utmost importance.

Relative to the visit of Mr. Rolph the Louisiana Planter under date of April 4 says:

Visits Various Parishes
Rolph is here. He reached New Orleans on Monday, and was met by a committee of sugar producers. Since then he has held several conferences with the various sugar interests, and, on Wednesday, he left for the town of Iberville, in Iberville Parish, for a tour of the principal sugar parishes starting from that point.

He has never specifically expressed himself with regard to what the regulations relative to Louisiana sugar next season will be, but has spoken very favorably in generalities.

He has impressed all with the idea that he will increase the price of Louisiana sugar so as to permit the producers of this State to make some money this year. He has in no way impressed anyone that it is the intention of the international sugar committee of refiners, to put an end to the American domestic sugar industry. What he has said since he reached here has all been very much to the liking of those who heard him talk, but what he says here is only of ordinary interest. What he will do when he gets back to Washington is the main idea. Those who are not easily swayed by promises are watching things with a most attentive eye. They do not expect him to say anything real while he is here.

Encouraging Data
On Friday he held conferences with sub-committees representing all of the departments of the industry. He is gathering data in Louisiana to enable him to make the proper regulations with regard to Louisiana. That is what he says. Before leaving he will be the guest at a dinner tendered in his honor by some of the members of the American Cane Growers Association. His visit followed fast upon the visit of President Babst of the American or Sugar Trust who was here last week and left last Saturday.

Optimistic
The weather seems to be smiling up on the Louisiana sugar plantations this year. When they wanted dry weather they got it, and now when a little rain was wanted they have got it. Heavy rains were had all over the sugar district this week. On Monday very heavy downpours were reported from every place on Bayou Lafourche and in Terrebonne. Heavy rains were also had along the river and in the western parishes. The crop seldom ever before looked better in early April than it does now. There isn't a pessimistic soul in the Louisiana sugar business so far as we have heard. Optimism is exuberant and there is talk of the largest crop per acre in the history of the State.

Smaller Acreage
However, a large number of reports received from twenty-two parishes in the Louisiana sugar district indicate distinctly that there will be a decrease this year in the amount of land put into cane. This is due to the fact that 25 percent of the cane sugar is produced in Vermilion, 18 percent in Lafayette, 15 percent in Avoyelles, 10 percent in St. Martin, and in others to a lesser degree. Some few parishes, on the contrary, show a slight increase in acreage, but the average of all reports at hand, and we have been able to obtain a sufficient number to give us every reliable data, show a net decrease on an average of 5 percent in cane acreage this year.

The reason for the decrease is variously ascribed, but the inability to get enough money for cane and the belief that other crops offer a fairer compensation seems to be the principal motive actuating those who have deserted cane for other crops. The decrease is most marked in parishes in the northern and western part of the sugar district where conditions are such as to make the cultivation of other crops, for instance, cotton and rice, easily possible. From all information at hand we judge that the total acreage in cane this year in Louisiana will be in the neighborhood of two hundred and eighty thousand acres. Last year it was about two hundred and ninety-five thousand acres.

The trend towards the more extensive manufacture of white sugar continues strong and last week at least four large houses placed orders for plantation granulated equipment. For some reason or other neither they nor the

HAWAIIAN COMMERCIAL & SUGAR COMPANY is one of the most progressive in the Islands. Last year it expended more than half a million dollars in improvements and contemplated improvements this year will cost more than \$300,000. The upper picture shows the company's big Punahele mill; the second picture is the molasses burning plant at Makaweli producing potash for fertilizer, and the lower picture shows garage for handling motor trucks and plantation automobiles at Makaweli. It is equipped with apparatus for charging storage batteries. Its output this year is conservatively estimated at more than 51,000 tons and may reach 60,000.



IMPROVEMENT SEEN

OGDEN, Utah, April 1.—A better response on the part of growers to the appeal of the Amalgamated Sugar Company to hasten the signing of beet contracts has been recorded during the past week, with the result that about 7000 of the 11,000 acres which it is desired to obtain in Weber County this season have now been signed. The average for several years past in this district has been 10,000 acres. Field Superintendent Joseph Quinney reports that the acreage being obtained for the Brigham, Logan, Lewiston, and Smithfield factories is now very satisfactory. The next week is expected to bring further heavy contracting, as the planting season is rapidly approaching and the farmers will be obliged to make their final decisions as to the crops which they will put in.

SWEDEN'S BEET CROP

Sweden's sugar beet crop for the 1917 season amounted to 1,090,000 ordinary tons, a decrease of about 151,000 tons from that of the previous year, according to a report transmitted to the Department of Commerce by Consul Agent E. C. Harter, at Malmo. The province of Scania, which comprises the extreme southern part of Sweden, produced 87 percent of the crop. The average yield of beets is 13 tons to the acre.

parties selling the machinery were willing to divulge the names of the four factories. It seems that all of this silence is created by an awful fear of what the International Sugar Committee, of refiners, might do to them for being so progressive.

PRICES OF STOCKS ARE HOLDING WELL

Owners Hold On To Investments Even Though Dividends Are Expected To Be Smaller

Those who have formed an impression that the prices of sugar stocks have been steadily sagging off since the first of the year and in the expectation that dividends would be reduced can correct their ideas by comparing prices of the present with those of the latest which was issued by the stock exchange on December 31. There are few stocks that are selling even fractionally lower now than then and there are some that are selling even higher.

There is no inclination to further discount the probability, the certainty of smaller earnings and lower dividends. The answer to what in most places and at most times would be a peculiar state of affairs is that holders of the local stocks have determined to hold on to what they have for the earnings which they may expect to get later. They know of no other investment so stable that will pay as well as the stock they now hold. They have made up their minds to expect a smaller percentage of return from their investments.

Few stocks of the Hawaiian corporations are expected to pay more than twelve percent dividends during the present year in regular dividends

though there may be some extra dividends declared toward the end of the year. One percent a month seems to be the basis that is being generally considered.

Incomes are to be smaller this year, and investors have reconciled themselves to this. The larger investors will have high income taxes to pay in any event and with a smaller income they will not have so large taxes so that in a way conditions balance each other in part. Where investments previously netted ten or twelve or even a larger percent they will now be two or three percent smaller at least. Another year the price of sugar will probably be higher and in the final result the shares of Hawaiian sugar companies promise more and better than do securities of which local people have hearsay information instead of a first hand and accurate knowledge.

A memorial service in memory of the late Benjamin F. Dillingham and James Bicknell Castle was held at Punahoa Academy on Wednesday. Judge Sanford B. Dale was the principal speaker. President A. F. Griffiths of the school was also a speaker. Among trustees present were W. R. Castle, W. F. Dillingham, A. F. Judd, F. C. Atherton, W. W. Chamberlain.

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SHORTAGE OF SUGAR BAG SUPPLY BECOMES ACUTE AND MAY REACH FAMINE

High as the price of bags has risen, sugar producers are facing still higher prices for the shortage of bags has now become acute. Producers here have in many instances recognized the impending danger of this but soon they will all be realizing it for war demands have cut very deeply into the supply.

On the subject of the shortage of bags for the shipment of sugar, Facts About Sugar says in its issue of April 4:

At no time since the outbreak of the European war have the domestic and Cuban sugar producers faced such unfavorable prospects relative to their sugar bag supply as is the case at present. Not only has the price of bags soared to a record high mark, approximately 5 1/2 cents for Cuban bags, as compared to pre-war prices ranging from thirteen to eighteen cents, but due to a scarcity of shipping a strong possibility exists of producers in the Western Hemisphere failing to obtain bag supplies, anywhere, approaching their requirements for 1919.

Situation Now Acute
A survey conducted by Facts About Sugar this week among the leading local dealers in the jute and sugar bag trade clearly indicates that the bag situation in so far as the supply for 1919 is concerned is most acute. It also shows that the sugar producers generally are well aware of the difficulties they face, as the bag trade reports that there has been an active demand for bags for early delivery in 1919 as can be obtained.

On the other hand, the survey shows that it is practically impossible to place any large volume of orders in this market for bags for future delivery, inasmuch as local dealers can not secure firm acceptances from Calcutta to cover the business sought. A prominent bag dealer who was interviewed this week gave the following explanation of conditions in the Calcutta market. He said:

Heavy Demand for War Use
"Owing to the heavy requisitions made by the British government on the Indian jute crop during 1917, and so far in 1918, to meet military requirements in bags and other jute products, fully fifty percent of the crop is being annually absorbed by this demand. This continued heavy government absorption of the crop has driven up the price of jute and bags steadily upward in the past four years, and the Calcutta market has become a highly speculative one. The trade there is disinclined therefore to deal in any future business and it is almost impossible for American dealers to obtain a firm offer by cable for either burlap or bags for delivery at any time far in the future.

In addition, there are disturbing complications relative to exchange and the uncertainty of shipping possibilities that make it very difficult to secure bags at the present time for use in the 1919 crop seasons of the various producing countries. Even with the high freight rates prevailing, such as the rate quoted at present of \$100 a ton for sugar bags from Calcutta to the Pacific Coast, it is almost impossible to get space for bag shipments, and some action will have to be taken by both the British and American governments if the necessary shipping space is to be provided to move the bags needed for next year's crop.

"It has been reported from the United Kingdom during the past few weeks that there is a possibility of the British government taking over the jute and burlap market in Calcutta during the present year in order that the speculative element now in control may be eliminated. If such proves to be the case it may mean a lower price for bags for 1919 and very likely will mean also that provisions will be made to supply the producers of the Western Hemisphere with bags. Whether or not, in that case, after the government has taken the portion of

the delaying of the departure of the Manna which yesterday afternoon left to go to the aid of a steamer in distress some eight hundred miles away. This will mean a delay of probably a week at least in the departure of the Manna, which was scheduled to sail on Tuesday and means that the sales of the George Washington, the Point Arena and the first of the month. It will therefore not be unexpected if the next report as to sugar awaiting shipment will run as high as 70,000 tons.

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SUGAR PILING UP ON STORAGE FAST

Now Estimated At Sixty Thousands of Tons and Will Be More By First of Month

Sugar is piling up in the storehouses and there is little or no relief in sight. Official figures will not be available until after the first of the month when the various agencies will report to the shipping board the amounts their plantations have on hand awaiting shipment but prominent men in the shipping circles of Honolulu yesterday estimated that there is on hand at least 60,000 tons. This estimate may be considered as conservative for in March the stocks awaiting shipment increased from 33,000 to 47,000 tons and there was a considerably larger tonnage of freight space available in March than there has been in April, although April has been better than had been feared.

The estimates of sugar on hand allows for what has been loaded aboard the George Washington and the Point Arena. The former was expected to sail from Hilo last night and the latter is to leave within a day or two. The George Washington takes a big cargo, about 11,000 tons and the Point Arena takes about 2800, the combined cargoes amounting to about 14,000 tons. Congestion will be aggravated by

the crop needed for military uses, there will be enough burlap left to provide a plentiful supply of bags next year is not wholly clear at this time for the reason that present indications point to the military demand being heavier than ever before and the crop being smaller. If such proves to be the case it is very safe to say that bags will not be plentiful, and even if the government does control the market they are not likely to be cheaper.

"Now is the time for the sugar industry to practice conservation relative to sugar bags, and this can best be accomplished by a wide use of second-hand bags at this time. Bags originally used for the transportation of raw sugar should be kept for this service and not utilized for any other purpose after the bag has been emptied. These bags should be returned to producers and kept in circulation as long as possible. This practice, if followed out for the balance of this year and closely adhered to next year, will in a great measure serve to relieve a situation that bears every earmark of being serious and troublesome next year."

Second-Hand Bags More Used
Local sugar men, commenting on the use of second-hand bags, pointed out that the use of such bags is becoming more general every day and that by the use of them many Cuban and Porto Rican producers who were short of bags have been able to make up the deficiency. On the other hand, there has been some complaint by the refiners as to the use of second-hand bags by the producers on the international sugar committee, on receiving a complaint recently from the refiners as to the unsatisfactory condition of bags, ruled that where bags were used which proved to be in bad condition when received an allowance should be made for leakage and the lessened value of the bags when empty, of not less than fifteen cents per bag. This ruling is understood to cover sugar bags from all producing countries.

It is unquestionably true that the use of second-hand bags would have to be subject to some agreement between sellers and the refiners that would safeguard the interests of both. If a wide use of these old bags were made there is no question that such an agreement could be readily reached by which the producer would be expected to put the old bags in as good condition as possible before they were used and in which buyers would be protected for any loss that might be sustained through the use of these bags.

A prominent member of the sugar trade, discussing the bag situation this week, said:

"I believe this matter of bags to be a most important one and a subject which should be given careful consideration by the American refiners. The present practice of the refiners of using sugar bags for containers for their finished products or in selling the bags to second-hand dealers is one that might wisely be altered at this time. It is apparent to any one familiar with conditions in the bag market that the producers will have great difficulty in obtaining new bags during 1919. It is very likely, of course, that they will receive a percentage of their requirements, but how large a percentage it will be no one can tell. In any event a shortage of serious proportions is faced. Would it not therefore be wise for the refiners to act in concert and agree to return the sugar bags to the producers?"

"I believe such a plan is practicable and I believe it should be acted upon at an early date. The bag issue is one that carries raw sugar for the refiners so that an agreement to utilize these bags for any other purpose is false business practice under existing conditions. By agreeing to return the bags the producers would be helped and the refiners would be helping himself in turn."

HORSES BURNED IN EARLY MORNING FIRE

Fire in a building in the rear of the Rycoff soda works on Sheridan Street off King Street called out the fire department shortly before half past one o'clock this morning. The building and its contents were destroyed but the department prevented a further spread of the flames.

The building which was destroyed was a frame and metal affair which quickly collapsed. Within it there were said to have been four horses, all believed to have been burned and a large auto-truck which was badly damaged.

The adjacent building to this stable-garage was concrete and beyond this were a number of wooden tenements to the saving of which the efforts of the firemen were largely directed and in which they were successful.

Demand For Sugar For Canning Is Given Attention

New York Receipts Are Not Large But Dutch Ships May Bring In Enough To Meet Expected Increasing Requirements

NEW YORK, April 5.—Sales of sugar to the international commission for the week amounted to 119,000 tons of Cuban and 22,500 Porto Rico raw for April. Arrivals at Atlantic ports were comparatively small, causing a decrease in meetings to 49,000 tons and reducing raw stocks to 22,729. For the first four days of the month sales to the commission were 824,000 bags of Cuban, 121,500 Porto Rico and 51,400 Santo Domingo, as was reported by Willett & Gray.

Another well known sugar authority in commenting on the situation says: The sugar situation here puts some refiners here in better shape to take orders for granulated sugar, thanks to the arrival of delayed raws. Others are still offering but little to the trade. Stress is laid by those hopefully inclined upon the promise of the shipping authorities to furnish ample tonnage to carry three hundred thousand tons of sugar from the West Indies during the month of April, including additional Dutch steamers.

It is pointed out that the food administration is most desirous to provide supplies for the forthcoming preserving and tanning season and hence everything will be done to facilitate the accumulation of invariable and visible stocks of sugar. There is a good demand from the country but it is less urgent since buyers possess sufficient supplies for daily needs.

Some manufacturers and jobbers are receiving full proportional allotments and others complain of discrimination. This is inevitable under the present makeshift methods of the distribution and the food administration is working out a scheme designed to eliminate inequality and inequity.

Carton Sugar
The press is commenting on the American's policy to push carton sugar, instead of bulk granulated, to the retail trade despite the request of the food administration that such method be dropped. It is pointed out that Babst's company, with forty percent allotment of sugar imports has a distinct advantage over other sugar refiners.

Local interests are still complaining that New Orleans is favored in receiving raws on practically last year's basis though the Atlantic ports are almost two hundred seventy-five thousand tons behind 1917. It is significant in this respect that Atlantic ports figure four thousand tons smaller than last week and meetings are reduced eleven thousand tons.

Stocks Sufficient
There is a movement placing orders for twenty million pounds to various refiners and also some export business to Scandinavia is expected during the next two months, but indications point to sufficient stocks for domestic consumers.

The decreased receipts and exports of Cuba the past week are not liked, though it is still hoped that the crop of three million five hundred thousand tons may materialize provided improvement in weather conditions continues. The International Committee is still buying April Cuban, Porto Rico and Santo Domingo at fixed basis. Java values of lifeless market and old crop white sugar selling at equal to 2.66 cents, f. o. b. March shipment.

HOARDERS CAUGHT

And so the sugar hoarders of Canton, Ohio, were caught the other day right in their own homes. The food administration got wind of things that persistent rumors goaded them in to put their noses into cellars, attics, garrets and the confiscated sugar sold to the people at large and only five pounds allowed to each home. The firm selling sugar were also given a carpet walk and they will have their hearing later. Sears, Roebuck & Co., the great mail-order house of Chicago, is before the Federal Trade Commission for advertising sugar at three and four cents a pound with other groceries and the charge against the firm is that of unfair methods of competition in business. Officials claim that the practice was discontinued last June.

COMMITTEE MEETS

NEW ORLEANS, Louisiana, April 1.—A lengthy meeting of the executive committee of the American Cane Growers' Association was held in the local office of the association on Thursday, March 28. The session started at 10 a. m. and recessed from 1 p. m. until late in the evening. Secretary Joe B. Chaffin would not say what was under discussion, but it is generally believed that the meeting was in connection with the proposed Louisiana sugar standards.

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